

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-20 AID-05
EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-04
OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 CTME-00
JUSE-00 /134 W

-----084418 231329Z /43

R 231223Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3563
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD ESCAP OCON
SUBJECT: ESCAP MINISTERIAL TRADE CONFERENCE - TEXT OF
ACTION PROGRAM

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE
ESCAP MINISTERIAL MEETING ON A PROGRAM OF ACTION
FOR INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE EXPANSION:

BEGIN TEXT

1. THE CONFERENCE AFFIRMED ITS CONVICTION THAT A PROGRAMME
FOR INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE EXPANSION AND COOPERATION WAS
URGENTLY NEEDED TO ACCELERATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND THAT SUFFICIENT SCOPE EXISTED
FOR THIS TO BE DONE. IT EMPHASIZED THAT THE PRIMARY
OBJECTIVE OF A PROGRAMME FOR REGIONAL TRADE EXPANSION AND
COOPERATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC SHOULD BE THE GROWTH
OF TRADE GENERALLY AND THE INCREASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OF ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, PARTICULARLY THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES. IT ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THE PROGRAMME WOULD
FURTHER PROMOTE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
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OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. IT FURTHER
AGREED THAT PROMOTION OF INTRAREGIONAL COOPERATION
SHOULD BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE,
SOVEREIGNTY, EQUALITY AND MUTUAL BENEFIT. IT REAFFIRMED
WITH EMPHASIS THE NEED FOR SPECIAL MEASURES FOR LEAST
DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED AND DEVELOPING ISLAND COUNTRIES
OF THE REGION. IT RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH COOPERATION

SHOULD BE TRADE CREATING AND SHOULD NOT BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

2. THE CONFERENCE CONSIDERED THE REPORT OF THE MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS AND APPROVED THE CONCLUSIONS CONTAINED IN THAT REPORT. IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION CONTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS, THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED ABOVE SHOULD BE TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT. IT BELIEVED THAT IN ORDER TO GIVE EFFECT TO THESE CONCLUSIONS, PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES SHOULD CONSIDER MEASURES IN RESPECT OF ALL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

(A) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONTINUING PROGRAMME FOR COLLECTION, STORAGE, RETRIEVAL AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION FOR THE PROMOTION AND EXPANSION OF MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TRADE AND TO IDENTIFY COMPLEMENTARITIES BY UTILIZING THE EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF THE TRADE PROMOTION CENTRE AND BY BUILDING UP A NETWORK OF NATIONAL TRADE PROMOTION CENTRES LINKED TO THE ESCAP CENTRE;

(B) THE PROMOTION OF TRADE CREATING JOINT VENTURES;

(C) THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF LONG-TERM
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CONTRACTS;

(D) THE PROVISION OF NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO COMMODITY ASSOCIATIONS/COMMUNITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO ENLARGE THE SCOPE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND THE PROMOTION OF NEW ASSOCIATIONS/ COMMUNITIES FOR COMMODITIES OF INTEREST TO THE REGION, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF INTEREST TO THE LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND LOCKED AND DEVELOPING ISLAND COUNTRIES;

(E) THE IMPROVEMENT OF MONETARY AND CREDIT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, INCLUDING THE STRENGTHENING OF EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO INTRAREGIONAL TRADE;

(F) THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE WITHIN THE REGION THROUGH THE REDUCTION, REMOVAL OR MODIFICATION OF TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME;

(G) IMPROVEMENT, INCLUDING EFFORTS TOWARDS
HARMONIZATION, OF TRADE STATISTICS, CUSTOMS TARIFF
NOMENCLATURE AND CUSTOMS AND TRANSPORT FACILITATION
PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTATION.

3. RECOGNIZING THAT IMPROVEMENT OF TRANSPORT FACILITIES
RELATED TO SHIPPING INCLUDING COASTAL SHIPPING, INLAND
WATER WAYS, AIR AND OVERLAND TRANSPORT, IS OF GREAT
IMPORTANCE TO THE EXPANSION OF TRADE IN THE REGION,
APPROPRIATE BODIES WITHIN ESCAP SHOULD GIVE FULL
CONSIDERATION TO THIS ASPECT.

4. IN IMPLEMENTING VARIOUS MEASURES UNDER THE PROGRAMME,
THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED AND
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ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD RECEIVE PARTICULAR
ATTENTION, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE IN REDUCING THEIR REGIONAL
TRADE IMBALANCES WHERE THEY EXIST. DEVELOPED AND
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO DO SO, SHOULD
CONSIDER GRANTING CONCESSIONS ON A NON-RECIPROCAL BASIS
ON PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES;
INCLUDING LAND-LOCKED AND DEVELOPING ISLAND COUNTRIES
AMONG THEM.

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CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-04
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5. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 4 ABOVE AND IN REGARD TO NON-RECIPROCAL AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY CONCESSIONS OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO STRIVE TO IMPROVE THESE CONCESSIONS IN REGARD TO THE PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO ALL THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE REGION.

6. THE CONFERENCE AGREED THAT A TRADE COOPERATION GROUP (TCG) SHOULD BE CONSTITUTED AS A FORUM TO CONSIDER HOW EFFECT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PROGRAMME BASED ON THE MEASURES OUTLINED ABOVE. THIS PROGRAMME WOULD BE COMPLEMENTARY TO THE WORK BEING CARRIED OUT IN BILATERAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE ESCAP REGION.

7. THE TCG SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION THROUGH THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE.

8. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TCG WILL BE OPEN TO ESCAP MEMBER AND ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES WHICH WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY OF THE MEASURES
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ENUMERATED ABOVE.

9. BEARING IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY THAT COUNTRIES MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL THE MEASURES, SUB-GROUPS OF THE TCG MAY BE CONSTITUTED OF COUNTRIES DESIROUS OF IMPLEMENTING PARTICULAR MEASURES.

10. THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ESCAP SHALL CONVENE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TCG BEFORE THE THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION.

11. THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IS REQUESTED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME.

12. THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IS REQUESTED TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH RELEVANT UN BODIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS REGIONAL PROGRAMME.

13. UNDP IS URGED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME AND OTHER UN AGENCIES CONCERNED ARE REQUESTED TO COOPERATE WITH ESCAP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME.

14. THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IS ALSO REQUESTED TO SEEK
FROM OTHER SOURCES, INCLUDING THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES,
TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAMME. END TEXT.
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